



# FOREST PEST REPORTER

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## NJDA ALLOCATES COST-SHARE FUNDS FOR 1999 COOPERATIVE GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM

The gypsy moth suppression program in New Jersey is a cooperative effort involving the NJDA and USDA's Forest Service. NJDA's Division of Plant Industry works with county and municipal governments to treat public and private residential forests to protect them from gypsy moth damage. This year's 1,370 acre spray program is the 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of NJDA involvement in the cooperative gypsy moth suppression project. In order to obtain federal cost share grants

for participating municipalities, NJDA prepares and submits to the Forest Service an environmental assessment, a biological evaluation, a project work and safety plan and a project narrative. This year NJDA has been allocated \$98,000 in federal cost-sharing funds. An additional allocation may be made if USDA Secretary Dan Glickman approves an emergency funding request from the Forest Service for a wide range of projects aimed at controlling invasive pests.

Municipalities participating in the 1999 tree protection program include Pemberton Township (90 acres), Medford Township (515 acres), Shamong Township (210 acres) and Southampton Township (385 acres) in Burlington County and Carney's Point Township (75 acres) and Oldmans Township (95 acres) in Salem County. The first day of treatment is scheduled for May 6th, weather permitting, in both of the Salem County municipalities.

## COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY (CAPS) PROGRAM UPDATE

NJDA has placed survey traps for *Ips typographus*, *Hylurgus ligniperda* and other species of foreign bark beetles in sites surrounding a warehouse in North Bergen, New Jersey. *Ips typographus*, the European spruce bark beetle, was found by USDA APHIS PPQ officers in crates at an import firm in that area in 1998. Bark beetles are frequently

intercepted in dunnage and crating associated with shipments of steel and other materials from foreign countries arriving at seaports in the Northeast. Although it is a serious pest of spruce and pine in Europe and Asia, *Ips typographus* is not yet established in the USA. These traps are being operated jointly by USDA APHIS PPQ and the Department, and are in addition to 12 pine

plantations trapped jointly by USDA APHIS PPQ and the Department for *Tomicus piniperda*, pine shoot beetle. *Tomicus piniperda*, a serious pest of pine in Europe and Asia, is established in nine states, including Pennsylvania and New York, and was recently found in Canada. USDA and the states deal with its spread through a Pine shoot beetle management plan.

## LABORATORY RESERVES OF HEMLOCK ADELGID PREDATORY BEETLES FOR FIELD RELEASE NEARLY DOUBLES

Reserves of *Pseudoscymnus tsugae* held in storage for release against hemlock woolly adelgid in 1999 have nearly

doubled since the last report with 51,000 beetles now in storage compared to the 28,000 stored in March.

Current reserves are double the number of beetles held in storage at this same time in 1998.

## NJDA SHARES EXPERTISE FOR PRODUCING HEMLOCK ADELGID PREDATORS

In February, NJDA shared its methodology for producing *Pseudoscymnus tsugae* with several states in the Northeast Region. After seeing the method that New

Jersey developed over the last year, researchers at the University of Rhode Island requested and received a small colony of beetles with which to start their own beetle rearing

operations. Since that time, the Alampi Laboratory has provided advice and guidance to help Rhode Island's effort to become productive as quickly as possible.

## INCREASE IN HEMLOCK MORTALITY ATTRIBUTED TO HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID

A question has arisen concerning the part hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) plays in the decline of the natural hemlock stands since weather conditions play a role and other hemlock pests, such as elongate scale, mites and looper, are also attacking the stands. While it's true that these pests can be found infesting hemlocks, data collected from New Jersey's permanent study plot system over a period of 10 years demonstrates that HWA is the common factor found in New Jersey's declining natural hemlock stands. These findings were presented by NJDA staff at the March 1999 Northeast Forest Pest Council meeting.

**Other information presented at the same session by Dr. Rusty Rhea of the United States Forest Service indicated that hemlocks that have experienced more than 50% needle loss will not recover in subsequent years even with chemical treatments.**

Therefore, for hemlocks to survive it is of critical importance that treatments be made when adelgid caused needle loss is below 50% on the trees selected for treatment. Fall treatments of insecticidal soaps, horticultural oil, or a soil drench of imidacloprid are most effective. If the infestation is heavy, treatment should start

in early spring (late April mid-May). Control of HWA in natural hemlock plantations or gorges is not practical due to the height of trees and lack of access by truck mounted hydraulic sprayers. In these cases biological control offers the best alternative. Application of pesticide to control HWA are only possible in landscape, nursery or park situations where access is possible and complete coverage of infested trees can be obtained.

### GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM STAFF:

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